

# Federal

# Dental News

AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION ★ NEWSLETTER FOR THE FEDERALLY EMPLOYED DENTIST

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## Federal Dental Service Membership Office

### American Dental Association

FDS Membership Office  
211 East Chicago Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Phone: 800-232-2083 or 312-440-4646  
Fax: 312-440-2883  
[fdsmember@ada.org](mailto:fdsmember@ada.org)

## Sign Up for 2005 ADA Dues

## Installment Payment Program ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

FDS direct membership in the American Dental Association is a great value to you. After all, the ADA gives you access to publications, products and services such as JADA, ADA News, Federal Dental News, FDS Ememo, premier continuing education as well as financial, insurance and retirement programs. Plus, the ADA is your advocate in Washington, working to secure greater appropriations for scholarship and accession bonuses, increase pay and facilitate military dental research.

The Association has made it even easier for federal dentists to pay their dues through the ADA's Dues Installment Payment Program (DIPP). Federal dentists who participate in the DIPP program pay their ADA dues in four equal payments (25% of your 2005 dues/assessment each payment) as opposed to one lump sum. Best of all, there is no charge for this service! You may choose to have the payments automatically charged to a credit card or debited from a checking account. Your credit card or checking account will be charged on the following dates:

- November 18, 2004
- January 18, 2005
- March 18, 2005
- May 18, 2005

Federal Dental Service members paying 50%, 75% or 100% of full national dues/assessments are eligible to participate in the Dues Installment Payment Program. Those paying graduate student dues (\$30) or 25% of full national dues/assessment are not eligible.

A brochure and application for the 2005 DIPP program will be mailed to all current ADA FDS members later this summer. To request a brochure and application, contact the FDS Membership Office at 1-800-232-2083 / 312-440-4646 or email [fdsmember@ada.org](mailto:fdsmember@ada.org). The deadline for signing up for the Dues Installment Payment Program is October 15, 2004.

## ADA Federal Dental Service Reception Oct. 2

Join us in Orlando for ADA Annual session, September 30- October 3, 2004. This promises to be one of our most exciting meetings with tremendous opportunities to participate in CE courses lead by industry experts and enjoy the multitude of family-friendly activities offered by Disney Orlando.

This year, the ADA is hosting an all-branch reception for federal services dentists attending annual session. This will be a wonderful opportunity to network with your colleagues, as well as mingle with dentists from other branches of the federal services. Please make time in your Orlando schedule to join us on Saturday, October 2 from 5:30pm-7:30pm at the Ritz Carlton resort. We look forward to seeing you there!

# ADA Federal Grassroots Membership Initiative

Many may find it surprising to know that currently just over half of all dentists in the federal services are ADA members! That number needs to grow so that the ADA can continue to credibly claim before legislators that we speak for the dental profession. To help increase federal dentists' membership and participation in the Association, the ADA launched the Federal Grassroots Membership Initiative (FGMI) earlier this year. The purpose of the Federal Grassroots Membership Initiative is to encourage dialog and interaction between ADA member and nonmember federal dentists to help the ADA grow our ranks among dentists in the federal services.

The FGMI is an ongoing initiative whose success is dependent on participation by ADA FDS member dentists. All ADA FDS member dentists are encouraged to sign up for this important new Initiative. To actively participate in the FGMI, member dentists simply have to decide on a way that works best for them to connect with nonmember FDS dentists and invite them to join the ADA. Getting started is easy as well. To register as a participant in the Initiative just call the ADA Federal Dental Services Membership Office. Or email your Name, ADA Number, Address, Phone Number and email to [fdsmember@ada.org](mailto:fdsmember@ada.org).

Nonmember FDS dentists, you have a job too! Take time to talk to a colleague who is a member of the ADA. They have valuable insight into the many things the ADA does for the profession, particularly dentists in the federal services.

If you are a member dentist and would like to sign up for the Initiative or just want more information, contact the FDS Membership Office at 1-800-232-2083/ 312-440-4646 or email [fdsmember@ada.org](mailto:fdsmember@ada.org). Branch-specific questions about the FGMI can also be directed to your ADA FDS Advisory Group liaison:

***Army***

Col. Ann Sue von Gonten  
Ann.vongonten@cen.amedd.army.mil

***Navy***

Cdr. Philip Rinaudo  
philip.rinaudo@navy.mil

***Air Force***

Lt Col. William Dunn  
William.dunn@lackland.af.mil

**VA**

Dr. John Ball  
john.ball3@med.va.gov

**PHS**

Capt. James Lipton  
James\_lipton@nih.gov  
membership office at 1-800-232-2083 / 312-440-4646  
or email [fdsmember@ada.org](mailto:fdsmember@ada.org).

## ADA Senate Testimony

On May 5, 2004, Dr. James Bramson, the ADA's Executive Director, testified on military dental issues before the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee. In his testimony, he indicated that dental officer recruiting and retention was the number one military dental issue and requested increased authorization and funding for both the Health Professions Scholarship Program and the Health Professions Loan Repayment Program. He also asked for more funding for the Military Dental Research activities at the Great Lakes Naval Center; increased funding for VA dental care for members of the Reserves and Guard activated during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom upon their separation from active duty (similar to the increased funding required after Desert Storm); and new money for the design phase of the proposed renovation and expansion of the Dunn Clinic at Lackland Air Force Base. The subcommittee is expected to take action on their appropriations bill in mid-June.

**ADA**



## Financial Aid and Scholarships

A robust number of new dental school graduates will be recipients of the The F. Edward Herbert Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) For Dentistry. HPSP targets those students interested in reducing their dental school debt in exchange for a defined number of years of active duty service. The HPSP is our greatest weapon to bring new talent into the Army Dental Corps. We will increase the number of scholarships offered over the next few years. Our challenge is to find students who have both the skills and a high potential to remain in service beyond their initial commitment, perhaps for a career.

percent of professionally active dentists are women as of 2001 and about 20 percent of all dentists under the age of 40 are women. Female students represented 42.6% of the 2001/02 first-year class, an increase from the percentage of female students from 17.0 percent in 1980/81.

### *Pre-Retirement Dentists*

Many of these officers have the opportunity to extend past 20 years active service if they desire to work past the minimum retirement age. For all specialties or areas of concentrations (AOCs) combined, those that are retirement eligible as of 01 June 2005 are 30.6 percent. Looking ahead, those numbers could be 34.7 percent as of 01 June 2006 and 37.2 percent as of 01 June 2007. The inventory for some AOCs project retirement eligibility as high as 56-72 percent by 01 June 2007.

Col. Ann Sue von Gonten  
US Army



**PATRIOTISM ★ PRIDE ★ PROFESSIONALISM**

# The U.S. Public Health Service

I have started my two-year term as your delegate to the ADA and it's an honor to represent you, the dental officers of the USPHS. Since this is my first Federal Dental News column, thought I'd begin with some information on my background. I am a board certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon and currently serve as the IHS National Consultant in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. I am stationed at the USPHS Lawton Indian Hospital in Southwest Oklahoma.

On Jan 19, 2004 I completed 27 years of continuous uniformed service, which I began as a private E-1 trainee at Fort Dix, and

***“But before we  
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made my way through the Army enlisted ranks to E-6. I was commissioned as second lieutenant US Army Field Artillery in May 1982 and served on active duty as a Military Intelligence officer and then as Field Artillery in the Army National Guard. I was subsequently promoted to First Lieutenant and Captain.

I attended undergrad and dental school while in the Army National Guard.

I'm looking forward to attending the ADA Annual Session this year in Orlando. One of the topics of interest for this meeting will be ergonomics and BMP (Best Management Practices) as it relates to amalgam disposal. The USPHS and especially the IHS owe a debt of gratitude to the ADA Washington D.C. office for their assistance with the dental volunteer program that help place volunteer providers into critically short areas within the IHS. The IHS continues to have a shortage of dental providers and if unmet dental need were counted the shortage would be enormous. But before we can provide comprehensive dental care we must first have enough doctors to meet the urgent needs. The ADA is our best ally in obtaining the resources necessary to recruit and retain dental providers. Their leadership in the area of special pays, accession bonuses and loan repayment funding has made a big difference in obtaining new providers for the service. I also want to thank CAPT Lozon for his leadership in modernizing the IHS dental recruitment process.

The ADA has a stated goal of achieving a membership of 75% of all licensed dentists in the United States by 2005. I urge you to continue your membership and to promote the ADA to your fellow non-members. The ADA Federal Grassroots Membership Initiative is a great way to get involved in helping to recruit non-members. I believe that the USPHS should have a 100% membership goal given all the ADA has done for us. I will see you at the meeting in October. If you have any questions about the ADA please contact me anytime.

Capt. Paul S. Wood  
Paul.Wood@mail.ihs.gov

## Veterans Affairs Legislation

Rep. Rob Simmons (R-CT), chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Health subcommittee, has inserted a provision in HR 4231, the Department of Veterans Affairs Nurse Recruitment and Retention Act of 2004, which would clarify the definition of “dental technologists” to mean technologists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants. This provision will prove to be beneficial for hiring purposes in the VA system.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Personnel Enhancement Act of 2003 (S.2484) has been introduced by Senator Arlen Specter, Chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, to simplify and improve pay provisions for physicians and dentists. The bill was introduced at the request of the Department of Veterans Affairs and will most likely be altered before it comes before the Senate committee. ADA staff has met with both House and Senate committee staff to discuss the relevant provisions to dentistry in that legislation.





American Dental Association  
[www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)

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**Department of Membership**

211 East Chicago Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60611-2678

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